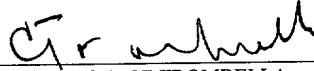


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CHASE TROMBELLA

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

FITZGERALD, et al.

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: To Be Assigned

For: DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER NETWORK  
INCLUDING HIERARCHICAL  
RESOURCE INFORMATION STRUCTURE  
AND RELATED METHOD OF  
DISTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified application.

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please revise page 1, lines 1-3 of the specification. The following is a replacement paragraph:

**Cross-Reference to Related Patent Application**

This is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/870,048 filed May 29, 2001, which is a Continuation of US Serial No. 08/979,083, filed November 26, 1997, which is a

Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/756,730, filed November 26, 1996 now abandoned,  
which is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/237,498, filed May 2, 1994 which is now  
U.S. Patent No. 5,581,764, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Serial No.  
08/056,333, filed April 30, 1993 now abandoned.

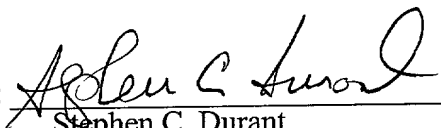
**REMARKS**

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification  
and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With  
Markings to Show Changes Made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document  
and the Patent Office determines that other relief is required, applicant petitions for any  
required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to  
charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this  
document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 363512004304.  
However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee  
to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 4, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Stephen C. Durant  
Registration No. 31,506

Morrison & Foerster LLP  
425 Market Street  
San Francisco, California 94105-  
2482  
Telephone: (415) 268-7000  
Facsimile: (415) 268-7522

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Specification:**

**Cross-Reference to Related Patent Application**

This is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/870,048 filed May 29, 2001, which is a Continuation of US Serial No. 08/979,083, filed November 26, 1997, which is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/756,730, filed November 26, 1996 now abandoned, which is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/237,498, filed May 2, 1994 which is now U.S. Patent No. 5,581,764, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Serial No. 08/056,333, filed April 30, 1993 now abandoned.